

Applicant : Mark Ian Jefree, et al. Attorney's Docket No.: Sonartech/503996
Serial No.: Not yet assigned
Filed : February 1, 2006

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A sonar antenna comprising an axially symmetric acoustic surface having the cross-sectional form of a generally U-shaped curve of non constant curvature; wherein the curve is shaped to allow continuous coherent ensonification such that the power in the echo returned from a uniform flat sea floor is substantially constant.

2. (Original) A sonar antenna according to claim 1, wherein the curve is catenary, hyperbolic or parabolic.

3. (Original) A sonar antenna according to claim 2, wherein the curve has the form:

$$y(x) = (\cosh(Ax) - 1)/A$$

where x is across, y is vertical and A is constant.

4. (Currently Amended) A sonar antenna according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the U-shape cross- section of the acoustic surface extends unchangingly in the axial direction.

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5. (Currently Amended) A sonar antenna according to ~~any~~
~~preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein there is one acoustic surface
for both transmitting and receiving.

6. (Currently Amended) A sonar antenna according to ~~any~~
~~one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein there are separate
acoustic surfaces for transmission and reception, and both have
the same U-shaped cross-section.

7. (Currently Amended) A sonar antenna according to ~~any~~
~~preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein a transmitting transducer is
arranged with a single transmitting aperture extending over the
entire transmitting surface.

8. (Currently Amended) A sonar antenna according to ~~any~~
~~one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein, there are a plurality of
transmitting transducers each having the same U-shaped cross-
section and stacked together in the axial direction.

9. (Currently Amended) A sonar antenna according to ~~any~~
~~preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein a plurality of receiving
transducers are strung together and arranged along the U-shaped
receiving surface.

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10. (Original) A sonar antenna according claim 9, where the transducers are arranged contiguously along the surface.

11. (Original) A sonar antenna according claim 9, where the transducers are arranged spaced apart along the surface.

12. (Original) A sonar antenna according claim 9, wherein not all the transducers are employed.

13. (Currently Amended) A vessel equipped with a sonar antenna according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, where the sonar antenna is mounted coaxially along its undersurface.